# REPORTS

OF THE

# SELECTMEN,

# TREASURER,

AND

SUPERINTENDING

# SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

# Town of Swanzey

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH FIRST,

1876.

---

*KEENE:*

*PRINTED AT THE CHESHIRE REPUBLICAN JOB OFFICE.*

*1876.*

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# SELECTMEN AND TREASURER'S

# REPORT.

We, the undersigned, Selectmen and Treasurer of the town of Swanzey, respectfully submit the following financial report for the year ending March 1, 1876.

Appropriations in March, 1875:

| | |
|---|---|
| Support of schools, | $1500 00 |
| Support of poor, | 600 00 |
| Town charges, including interest on town debt, | 2000 00 |
| Extinguishment of town debt, | 2000 00 |
| Repairs of highways, | 1500 00 |
| Repairs of bridges, | 500 00 |

## APRIL INVOICE, 1875.

| | |
|---|---|
| Resident real estate, | $329,870 00 |
| Non-resident real estate, | 57,140 00 |
| Mills and machinery, | 26,050 00 |
| Money at interest, | 30,630 00 |
| Stock in trade, | 27,005 00 |
| Stock in banks, | 2,800 00 |
| 428 polls, | 42,800 00 |
| 922 cattle, | 37,907 00 |
| 341 horses, | 26,955 00 |
| 566 sheep, | 2,169 00 |
| 73 carriages, | 6,190 00 |
| 1 hog, | 25 00 |
| Total valuation, | $589,541 00 |
| Deductions for debts, | 16,410 00 |
| Leaving the valuation for taxation, | $573,131 00 |
| Valuation for taxation, | $573,131 00 |
| Rate per cent. on one hundred dollars, | 1 93 |
| Tax resulting, | $11,061 54 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Tax on 111 male dogs, | 111 00 |
| " " 14 female dogs, | 28 00 |
| School-house tax in district No. 8, | 20 26 |
| " " " " " 10, | 125 20 |
| " " " " " 11, | 1,037 50 |
| Amount committed to collector, | $12,383 50 |

## RECEIPTS FOR 1875.

Owing to a slight error in the report for 1874, too large a sum was reported as being in the treasury March 1, 1875.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cash remaining in the treasury March 1, 1875, | $508 82 |
| Received from the State, Savings Bank tax for 1875, | 1443 93 |
| " " " " Railroad " " | 152 74 |
| " " " " Literary Fund " | 162 54 |
| " " " County, support of county paupers, | 74 51 |
| " of Collector for 1874, | 657 63 |
| " " " " " school money for No. 12, | 51 96 |
| " " " " " interest on taxes not paid till after December 1st, | 5 51 |
| " of Collector for 1875, interest on taxes not paid till after December 1st, | 11 00 |
| " from Mellen K. Holbrook for lot in cemetary, | 7 00 |
| " " Daniel Perry " " " | 7 00 |
| " " Ira C. Fisher " " " | 5 00 |
| " from sale of old bridge plank, | 75 |
| | $3088 39 |

## MONEY BORROWED.

| | |
|---|---|
| September 4, 1775, George E. Whitcomb, | $ 300 00 |
| January 6, 1876, Sarah Willis, | 1000 00 |
| | $1300 00 |

# DISBURSEMENTS.

## TOWN OFFICERS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Stephen Faulkner, Selectman for 1874, | $ 125 00 |
| Lyman N. Howes, " " " | 130 00 |
| Josiah Parsons, " " " | 97 00 |
| Alonzo Farr, Assessor for 1875, | 95 00 |
| Henry Eames, " " " | 95 00 |
| Willard Field, " " " | 95 00 |
| William C. Belding, services assessing real estate, | 95 00 |
| George I. Cutler, Supt. S. Committee for 1874, | 50 00 |
| George I. Cutler, Town Clerk " " | 40 70 |
| Alonzo A. Stanley, Collector of taxes " " | 90 00 |
| Enoch Howes, Treasurer " " | 30 00 |
| George W. Richardson, Sexton " " | 48 50 |
| George Whitcomb, Sexton, services in 1874 and 1875, | 56 25 |
| Benjamin F. Lombard, Moderator for 1875, | 3 00 |
| | $1050 45 |

## SUPPORT OF POOR.

| | |
|---|---|
| Daniel B. C. Hill, keeping 31 tramps, | $23 00 |
| Homer Evans, " 3 " | 3 00 |
| | $26 00 |

### TOWN PAUPERS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Elias A. Thatcher for support of Elias Thatcher, | $127 28 |
| County, for board of Seral Whitcomb, | 48 55 |
| Silas Whitcomb, for board of Seral Whitcomb, | 2 50 |
| Car fare of Seral Whitcomb from Keene to Westmoreland, | 40 |
| Sylvander Stone, for board of Josiah Wilson, | 31 71 |
| Support of George W. Ellis' family, | 16 00 |
| " " Widow Joseph Snow, | 23 60 |
| | $250 04 |

### COUNTY PAUPERS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Elias A. Thatcher for support of Elias Thatcher and wife, | $26 86 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Support of Edward Duplease, | 17 66 |
| " " Anthony Pelkey, | 10 29 |
| " " Bergen family, | 22 26 |
| " " Rufus J. Foster, | 2 03 |
| Daniel B. C. Hill, carrying Luther Smith to almshouse, | 3 00 |
| William C. Belding, carrying Josiah Wilson to almshouse, | 4 00 |
| George I. Cutler, medical attendance on Mrs. Barry, | 3 75 |
| Solon A. Carter, coffin and robe for Mrs. Barry, | 9 00 |
| | $98 85 |

## REPAIRS OF HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

| | |
|---|---|
| Paid Charles L. Russell for bridge timber and plank, | $ 64 77 |
| George F. Lane & Sons for " " " " | 15 73 |
| George G. Bidwell, bridge plank, | 11 51 |
| Sylvander Stone, " " | 16 00 |
| George W. Perry, " " | 32 37 |
| Murphy & Alexander, " " | 2 20 |
| D. B. C. Hill, " " | 10 15 |
| Henry Holbrook, breaking roads, | 3 00 |
| George O. Capron " " | 8 00 |
| D. B. C. Hill, " " | 5 00 |
| Orin Black, " " | 20 03 |
| Calvin E. Hills, " " | 5 40 |
| Philip P. Carlton, " " | 6 00 |
| Henry Starkey, " " | 2 83 |
| Charles Talbot, " " | 90 |
| David Whitcomb, Jr., breaking roads and snowing bridges, | 26 50 |
| David Parsons, breaking roads and snowing bridges, | 12 94 |
| Jareb S. Herrick, snowing Slate bridge, | 7 00 |
| Stephen Streeter, repairing and breaking roads, | 5 17 |
| Amos E. Cummings, labor on and material for highways, | 306 67 |
| Jareb S. Herrick, " " " | 266 71 |
| D. B. C. Hill, " " " | 215 09 |
| George O. Capron, " " " | 156 00 |
| William C. Belding, " " " | 122 04 |
| Charles A. Hewett, " " " | 119 27 |
| George G. Bidwell, " " " | 84 45 |
| George W. Willis, " " " | 50 74 |
| William C. Belding, building Taft bridge, | 183 41 |
| Willis & Hill, building causeway bridge, | 390 37 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Paid Willis & Hill, repairing Talbott road, | 37 83 |
| George W. Willis, repairs on Marcy Hill, | 34 35 |
| Benjamin C. Snow, repairing highways, | 148 37 |
| James C. Eames, " " | 103 47 |
| Thayer Thompson, " " | 37 20 |
| Alfred S. Blake, " " | 19 01 |
| Calvin E. Hills, " " | 13 12 |
| Phillip P. Carlton, " " | 7 36 |
| David Whitcomb, Jr., " " | 5 37 |
| Benjamin F. Lombard, " " | 5 57 |
| Marcus Bullard, " " | 4 00 |
| Luke Ellor, labor on highways, | 43 68 |
| Darius E. Wright, | 28 67 |
| Edwin Hill, | 22 00 |
| Ezekiel P. Woodward, | 22 89 |
| J. Wyman Goodell, | 12 75 |
| Andrew B. Cook, | 12 00 |
| Elmer J. Bullard, | 6 00 |
| Willard Ballou, | 8 01 |
| George W. Alexander, | 3 00 |
| Joel Hammond, | 50 |
| Noyes G. Wheeler, land damages, | 6 00 |
| For repairing road scraper, | 15 70 |
| For two road scrapers, | 20 00 |
| David Parsons, lumber for and labor on bridges, 1874 and 1875, | 12 12 |
| Josiah Parsons, spikes used 1874, | 65 |
| | $2779 87 |

## NOTES AND INTEREST PAID.

| | |
|---|---|
| Henry Eames, note and interest, | $ 524 00 |
| George W. Oliver, note and interest, | 2396 45 |
| Alonzo A. Ware, note and interest, | 1067 33 |
| A. & J. Holbrook, note, | 300 00 |
| A. & J. Holbrook, interest, | 140 07 |
| R. & G. E. Whitcomb, " | 300 00 |
| Martha J. Bailey, " | 96 00 |
| J. D. Ware, " | 21 00 |
| Candis Bullock, " | 51 00 |
| Nancy Stratton, endorsements, | 75 00 |
| Julia A. Stratton, endorsement, | 75 00 |
| Interest on town bonds, | 552 00 |
| | $5597 85 |

## FOR SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriated by town, | $1500 00 |
| Literary Fund for 1874, | 151 70 |
| School money of No. 12 for 1873, | 48 62 |
| School money of No. 12 for 1874, | 51 96 |
| | $1752 28 |

## INCIDENTALS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Amos C. Crouch, damage to sheep by dogs, | $ 58 00 |
| Marcus C. Stone, " " " | 15 00 |
| Orleans S. Eaton, " " " | 10 00 |
| Henry Holbrook, " " " | 10 00 |
| Benjamin F. Mead, " " " | 6 00 |
| Alfred S. Blake, " " " | 5 00 |
| Edwin Snow, " " " | 4 50 |
| Arba Stearns, " " " | 4 00 |
| Henry Capron, abatement of poll tax for 1874, | 1 80 |
| J. W. Capron, over-tax for 1874, | 1 80 |
| Robert Wilson estate, over-tax for 1874, | 21 00 |
| Abatement of taxes for 1874, | 96 30 |
| Roberts Hovey, over-tax for 1875, | 12 93 |
| George W. Faulkner, " " | 9 65 |
| Edward K. Simonds, " " | 9 65 |
| Daniel Snow & Sons, " " | 3 86 |
| Mrs. E. K. Aldrich, " " | 1 93 |
| George P. Ward, tolling bell in 1874, | 1 00 |
| Enoch Howes, tolling bell for 1874, | 3 75 |
| J. N. Morse, printing town reports for 1874, | 45 00 |
| George I. Cutler, reporting births and deaths for 1874, | 12 75 |
| Frank Shovey and John Tillie, highway tax refunded, | 3 00 |
| George W. Whittemore, damage to carriage by defect in highway, | 8 00 |
| J. G. Bellows, Esq., services on Unionville road, | 8 00 |
| Benjamin F. Mead, building chimney on town house, | 9 86 |
| George W. Richardson, repairing hearse house, | 67 91 |
| George W. Richardson, varnishing hearse, | 3 50 |
| A. A. Ware, surveying services, | 1 50 |
| Roberts Hovey, wood for town house, | 4 50 |
| Blank books, stationery and postage, | 13 02 |
| Assistance on assessment of real estate, | 3 00 |
| Taking pauper affidavits, | 1 50 |
| Costs of court and commissioners on Unionville road, | 54 80 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Wheeler & Faulkner, retainer for 1875, | 6 00 |
| M. T. Tottingham, repairing hearse. | 1 87 |
| Alonzo A. Stanley, watering place for 1875, | 3 00 |
| Joseph Perry, " " " | 3 00 |
| William Read, " " " | 3 00 |
| Joseph W. Cummings, " " " | 3 00 |
| Murphy & Alexander, " " " | 3 00 |
| Samuel Thompson estate, " " " | 3 00 |
| | $538 38 |

## RECAPITULATION.

### RECEIPTS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cash remaining in treasury, March 1, 1875, | $508 82 |
| Of the State Savings Bank tax for 1875, | 1443 93 |
| " " Railroad tax for 1875, | 152 74 |
| " " Literary fund for 1875, | 162 54 |
| " Collector for 1874, | 657 63 |
| " " " " School money of No. 12, | 51 96 |
| " " " " interest on taxes, | 5 51 |
| Of the collector for 1875, interest on taxes, | 11 00 |
| Total amount committed to collector on town account, | 11,200 54 |
| Borrowed during the year, | 1300 00 |
| Received of county support of paupers, | 74 51 |
| " from sale of lots in cemetery, | 19 00 |
| " from sale of old bridge plank, | 75 |
| | $15,588 93 |

### DISBURSEMENTS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Paid Town officers, | $1050 45 |
| State tax, | 1528 00 |
| County tax, | 916 40 |
| Support of poor, | 374 89 |
| Support of schools, | 1752 28 |
| Highways and bridges, | 2779 87 |
| Notes and interest, | 5597 85 |
| Incidentals, | 538 38 |
| Tax remaining in collectors hands, | 825 54 |
| Remaining in treasury March 1, 1876, | 225 27 |
| | $15,588 93 |

## LIABILITIES.

NOTES AGAINST THE TOWN.

| | |
|---|---|
| R. & G. E. Whitcomb, | $5000 00 |
| A. & J. Holbrook, | 2650 00 |
| Martha J. Bailey, | 1600 00 |
| Sarah Willis, | 1000 00 |
| Julia A. Stratton, | 825 00 |
| Nancy Stratton, | 925 00 |
| Candace Bullock, | 850 00 |
| Jonathan D. Ware, | 350 00 |
| George E Whitcomb, | 300 00 |
| Sophronia Hunt, | 135 00 |
| Bonds outstanding, | 9200 00 |
| Estimated interest due on the above, | 500 00 |
| Estimated due town officers for 1875, | 550 00 |
| | $23,885 00 |

## ASSETS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cash in treasury, | $225 27 |
| Cash in collector's hands, | 825 54 |
| Due from county, | 27 30 |
| | $1078 11 |
| Total amount of liabilities, | $23,885 00 |
| Total amount of assets, | 1078 11 |
| Leaving the indebtedness of the town at this date, March 1, 1876, | $22,806 89 |

GEORGE W. WILLIS,
WILLIAM C. BELDING,
DANIEL B. C. HILL,
*Selectmen of Swanzey.*

ENOCH HOWES, *Treasurer.*

# REPORT

OF THE

# Superintending School Committee.

In compliance with the laws of the State, the following Report of the condition of the Common Schools of Swanzey, for the year ending March 14, 1876, is respectfully submitted:

We believe in having good schools, and that the advantages to be derived from them, in any place, cannot be too highly estimated. In any community where good schools have been the order of each succeeding year, we see the good effects in the morals and general intelligence of the people, and especially in the character of our youth who are coming forward in the place of the present generation, and will soon take their part in the business of the town and affairs of the State. We need intelligent men and women, and educated ones, to fill every responsible station in life. Our Common Schools and Free Institutions, which were founded on the principles of a Republican form of Government, were intended to supply this great need. Our public school system may have its defects and our schools may not all be what we most desire, yet through this system they will, by suitable provisions and proper management, supply every necessary want toward obtaining a good education, if these advantages, which they afford are properly improved.

It is hoped that the town will consider the matter of appropriating a little more money for the support of schools. According to the State Reports which have been published, our rate per scholar is less than any other town in Cheshire County, save one.

| | |
|---|---|
| The past year our town raised by taxation, | $1500 00 |
| Received as Literary Fund, | 151 70 |
| Money not used in No. 12, | 100 58 |
| Total amount appropriated for 12 schools, | $1752 28 |

This averages only $4.44 to each scholar, and has given each School an average of but 18⅔ weeks for the year.

It seems, by comparison with other towns, that we can well afford to contribute more liberally to the cause of popular education, when we rightly consider that our free schools are the nurseries of our own growth and prosperity as an enterprising and intelligent people; and that their efficiency must greatly depend upon the means we have for their support.

We hear the complaint that schools are too short, that teachers are too young and inexperienced. A Prudential Committee is often placed between two alternatives, either to hire some inexperienced or inefficient teacher of whose qualification he has no knowledge, in order to *spin out* a school to a few more weeks, or select one of a different class who is fully competent, and at a price which he can best agree.

We want good teachers, and those of proper age and experience, to teach anything like difficult schools; and we cannot hire such without paying them for their services.

Our schools have enjoyed a good degree of prosperity during the past year. On the average they have been all we have reason to expect, and some have been of superior excellence. The board of teachers, twenty in all, will compare favorably with those of any year. It is true that a few of these schools have not been what we most desire, yet there have been no absolute failures. Those teachers who have not fully succeeded, labored generally at a disadvantage from a lack of parental co-operation, or a united support in those districts; and some might well consider whether they are mistaken in their calling, or unfortunately engaged in the wrong schools.

With few exceptions our school-houses are in good condition, and compare well with those of other towns. We have a few which do not contribute to the health or comfort of the children who occupy them; and they are not suitable for the purpose for which they were intended. Those benches with straight backs, and narrow, high seats, in which little children are obliged to sit and while away the time, with their feet suspended dangling above the floor, were calculated more for *torture* than comfort. We do not wonder that we see cases of stooping shoulders, and deformed chests and crooked spines among our students and those who have attended school in such places, and we doubt not that many of these physical deformities had their origin from such causes and bad arrangements in our schoolrooms. A few of our districts might consider whether they can afford to improve the condition of their school-houses and make them a little more comfortable and convenient, and have better arrangements.

No. 8 was assessed last April for $20.70, and with this they procured a *new stove* and furnished a *new school-room* door, both of which were very much needed, and are extremely essential in cold weather. There is need here of further improvement!

No. 10 was taxed $125.20 for recent repairs on their house, which is now in good condition and presents a very neat appearance.

Union District has done a good work in erecting a new and elegant school-building, and has consequently been enabled to make some radical changes and improvements in its schools. The district voted to raise by taxation $5000.00 for this purpose, in addition to the old school property, from the sale of which $828.25 has been realized. Sixty desks with chair seats, which were taken from one of the old houses, remain to be disposed of. The school-house lot of about three-fourths of an acre, was a gift by Messrs. Stratton, Sprague and Kendall.

The amount expended by the Building Committee, including $93.00 paid for insurance, is $5843.00, a balance of about $34.00 remaining in their hands. The house presents a model appearance within and without, is pleasantly located on ample grounds, and is an ornament and credit to the district. It is thoroughly constructed and shows excellent taste and workmanship in all its parts; and it embraces in its arrangement and furnishing some of the best of the more modern improvements.

The house is calculated for three schools, but at present only two rooms have been seated. The desks, with which they are furnished, are decidedly the best we have ever seen; and they form very easy and convenient seats, where the pupils may sit still without discomfort or *torture*. They were manufactured by the Michigan School Furniture Co., Northville, Michigan.

Union District now comprises the districts formerly known as No. 11, No. 12 and No. 13. No. 12 was united by a concurrent vote of the districts Dec 29, 1875.

## SPECIAL REPORTS.

District No. 1. The Summer term was taught by Miss Ruth A. Smith, who did not probably realize the success she anticipated when she entered this school to make her beginning as a teacher. Faithfulness on her part and a desire to have her pupils do well, were not sufficient for the management of this school. When we visited it near its commencement, we did not find the most orderly school, or one the most interesting in appearance. Scholars were listless and idle, and some would not study even when directed to do so by the teacher. Considerable improvement, however, was afterwards made. Scholars were well drilled, particularly in Arithmetic, in which they made good progress for the short term. Some fine specimens of map-drawing were exhibited on the black-board, the last day of the school, and they were well described by the Geography class.

The Second Term commenced Sept. 6, and was in charge of Miss Carrie L. Whitcomb. The school was not well classified in reading when visited. The "first class," that were *trying* to read a selection in Hillard's Fifth Reader, entitled "The Death Scene in Ion," would have appeared better had they been able to pronounce a few of the words, and comprehend something of the meaning. This class afterward found themselves better fitted for the Fourth reader.

The interest of the school was not very well sustained. The parents failed to work with the teacher, and some preferred to keep their children at home rather than have them attend to their duties at school. But the *seven* scholars at the examination did well, and Fred Lawrence, the only boy in his class, acquitted himself with honor by remaining at his post on the last day of the school.

No. 2. Miss Ellen Taft was employed for both Summer and Winter terms, and she managed very successfully and gave good satisfaction. The measles made rather bad work with the school in the summer, and kept many of the scholars sick at home from two to three weeks of the term.

In the Winter there were forty-nine different scholars of mixed grades with the usual variety of classes for such a school. Eight members of the school were over sixteen years of age. The order was good and the utmost harmony prevailed in the school throughout both terms. The classes appeared well at the closing examination and gave evidence that much improvement had been made.

No. 3. Both terms, Summer and Fall, were taught by Miss Emma M. Lovering, who is a good instructor for young scholars, and keeps an orderly school. Your committee was pleased with its appearance whenever he visited it. The pupils, evidently, understood what was expected of them, and were ready to comply with the teacher's requirements. The services of Miss Lovering must have proved profitable to the district.

No. 4. Miss Cora F. Lombard taught in the Summer. Nine girls and two boys, with the teacher, comprised the school. The term closed sooner than first expected on account of measles which were here prevailing at that time. For this reason the school was not visited at its close, no notice of the time having been given; but its good appearance at the beginning gave promise of success, which was fulfilled according to the evidence of those in the district who have expressed their satisfaction.

Miss Jennie M. Holbrook was employed for the Second term. Nearly the same scholars attended as in the summer, with a few

additional boys. Those with their deportment marked below the ordinary rank, proved of no advantage to the school, nor could any school have been of much advantage to them without a better observance on their part of the rules of propriety. When young men, sixteen and seventeen years of age, attend our schools, taught by young female teachers, if they have sufficient pride and self-respect, they will not strive to embarrass the teacher in her government. The school appeared well when first visited; and would have continued in prosperity had others done their duty alike with the teacher.

Miss Holbrook concluded her services a little sooner than was first expected, and was, after a short vacation, succeeded by Miss CLARA E. HARDY of Marlboro', who taught eight weeks; seven weeks of her school was supported by subscription. Miss Hardy is a good teacher, and has a successful way of managing.

No. 5. The Summer term was in charge of Miss ANNIE V. RICHARDSON who was very successful in this school; her manner in the school-room is well calculated to please children and win their confidence and good will, which here added to her success. There was good order and a pleasant relation between teacher and pupils, and the classes improved well under her instruction.

The services of Mrs. CLARA E. ROBINSON were secured for the Winter term, who is an experienced teacher, and well qualified for the avocation which she claims to love, and has followed through a series of terms. The district could have made no better selection. The pupils showed a good degree of interest in their studies, and there appeared to be a determination of all to improve the excellent opportunities of this term, and to do *just right*. The examination was an interesting one. The classes had not wandered over so much *book territory* as they had in former times, but they had studied well, had been well drilled, and had learned thoroughly about what they had studied. Only one scholar tardy during the term.

No. 6. Miss ADA M. REED taught the Summer term, and she came well qualified for a beginner and one so young. The relation between teacher and pupils seemed a pleasant one, and there was the utmost harmony in school throughout the term. The classes generally made good improvement; those in Arithmetic did particularly well. The whispering, noticed on examination-day might have been agreeable to those who participated, but it was decidedly annoying to the committee, and we believe it must have been to the teacher.

Miss M. ADDIE MORSE was the teacher of the Winter term. Her ninety-six months of previous experience as a teacher, ren-

dered her services of the more value to the district. She was enabled to understand the wants of the school and how to apply herself to the work she had before her, of making the most out of the material composing her school.

The record of attendance was an excellent one, and without a mark of tardiness during the term. Miss Morse has no lack of energy, and is zealous, ever, for the improvement of her pupils; and she manages to accomplish a large amount of work for the time of service. At the examination the classes showed that they had been well exercised and drilled in whatever they had studied.

No. 7. Miss JENNIE A. FAULKNER had charge of the Summer term. She had taught in this district four previous terms with excellent success and now fully understood the minds, capacities and dispositions of those with whom she had to deal. The school proved a good one, which was what we had every reason to expect. The examination gave evidence of good management, thoroughness and fidelity on part of the teacher.

Mr. Frank S. Faulkner taught the Winter term as his first school, and his personal appearance and high scholarly attainments for one of his years, recommended him well for the teacher's profession, and as one who has within him the *elements of*

The scholars here are well deserving of a better school house; and when the people of this district, including the parents and others interested, are led to believe this, as many of them now do, they will undoubtedly try to provide a more suitable habitation for these children, which will conduce more to their health, comfort and happiness.

No. 10. The Summer term was in charge of Miss Emily R. Bailey. This is the seventh term she has taught in this district where she enjoys the highest confidence of all. Her reputation as an earnest and efficient teacher is well established. The scholars were mostly young, none of them being over 14 years of age. The classes at the close of the term appeared well and gave evidence that they had been thoroughly instructed, and that the elements of what they had studied had not been neglected.

The second term commenced Sept. 6, and was taught by Miss Nellie L. Richardson who is a teacher of experience, and one who has been employed in larger schools where she has been able to render herself more generally useful. It was evidently a disappointment to her to find so small a school of such young scholars where she would be obliged to confine herself to the teaching of a few small classes; but those few received the full benefit of her instruction, and her services were well appreciated by the district.

* *success.*

The discipline of the school was not so pleasant on account of his having been associated so many years with many of his pupils in this same school. But the teacher's unyielding determination to govern and make his scholars learn, finally made him master of the situation, and his labors proved successful, and his services profitable to those who received the full benefit of the school.

No. 8. The Summer term of seven weeks was taught by Miss CARRIE L. WHITCOMB, and the Winter term of eleven weeks by Miss Kate E. Lombard. This was Miss Whitcomb's first experience in teaching, and although the committee was unable to be present at the examination, he has reason to believe from what he saw and has been informed that the teacher did well for one so young. The short duration of the Summer term did not enable her to accomplish a great amount of work.

The Winter term was longer, and the teacher was enabled to do something more than make a beginning. The examination of Miss Lombard's school was highly satisfactory. The exercises in reading were good. One class of young scholars did finely in mental Arithmetic, and would *go ahead* of many in other schools, much in advance of them in years. The teacher succeeded in gaining the good will and confidence of her pupils, and the result of her labors was all that could be expected in such a school.

No. 9. We have heard no complaint about schools in this district during the past year. The two terms, comprising about twenty weeks, were taught by Miss JULIA A. BLANDING who labors with a faithful devotion to duty, and for the improvement of her pupils. Both terms were equally successful. The quietude and order of the school during each visit, could not be excelled. There was good attendance for the year, and only two scholars tardy among the twenty-seven different ones.

The classes showed decided improvement at the final examination. The little class in the multiplication-table should be remembered for the manner in which they acquitted themselves, and for learning so much in one term.

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*The above matter on this page should follow the 21st line on the 16th page.

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Miss Richardson is at home in the school-room, and soon learns the ways and inclinations of her pupils. She is thorough and practical, and keeps good order. The classes appeared well at the close of the term, and for the ten weeks made good improvement.

No. 11. Union District. In the Summer the scholars were divided into two mixed schools, one taught by Miss Ella A. Felt in the Old No. 11 School-house, and the other by Miss Carrie S. Taylor in the Old Red School-house. To better equalize the number of scholars in each, a few were sent from the west side to the other school, making in this 40 scholars and leaving in the other 47.

Miss Felt is a successful manager and a good instructor for young scholars. Her school was orderly, and the various classes made good proficiency in their studies. It was observable that her pupils did not depend much upon her promptings in recitation. They had, in some way, been taught self-reliance in a large degree, which is, truly, a commendable quality for a scholar to possess; and we believe they should be allowed to tell what they have learned rather than have the teacher recite it for them, which is often done; yet they should not be made to depend altogether upon their own genius and intelligence to work out all things difficult which may occur to them.

Miss Taylor had the disadvantage of not having a very pleasant and commodious school-room; although she had superior literary qualifications, and is one of the most accomplished teachers; she did not appear to consider the government of this school of sufficient importance. Teaching was her *forte*, and to this her mind and energies were given while in the school-room.

The general attendance of both these schools was very good. There were comparatively but few tardinesses.

The new School-house was completed in season for the Winter schools, which were graded and divided into two departments, having in both 110 different scholars.

Miss Abbie C. Gould was employed in the Grammar School. She is well known here as a superior and successful teacher, and she began this new school strongly supported by the full confidence of the district. In the higher department there were 27 pupils over 15 years of age, and 46 in all. The studies were the same as those pursued by most of our advanced classes in the Common School. All the pupils were required to study English Grammar as well as Reading and Spelling, these being regarded as among the most important, and often most neglected of branches. A class of 23 studied Guyot's Geography whom we should take pride in sending to the Centennial Exhibition. We have never seen a better class in this study, or one that had been better exercised in the principles of map drawing. This class were enabled to draw from memory, and very accurately, any map they had taken up during the term. The maps which they had execu-

ted and compiled in the course of their study, were excellent specimens of the kind. A class of 7 studied Algebra and made good progress. The Arithmetic class did finely and the examination of them showed that they had been thoroughly drilled.

Miss Julia A. Blanding managed successfully the Primary Department. She had 64 scholars and work enough for an assistant teacher, but she proved herself competent and well adapted to the situation.

Miss Blanding has a quiet and natural manner in the schoolroom, and a successful method of stimulating her pupils to study and making them learn; and she has always succeeded in keeping up a living and wide-a-wake interest in her schools. The classes made excellent improvement, and their appearance gave evidence of skillful training on part of the teacher.

By good management and co-operation of both teachers, the discipline of these two schools was of the *first order*; it was mild but strict and effectual, to which no exception is made; and among so many scholars the general deportment sustains a high rank. There was a good average attendance and few tardinesses.

The schools of this district received over 150 visits during the winter. According to the evidence of those who have the best means of knowing, there was never before so much school interest in this place. Those who have visited these schools, so far as we know, have passed upon them high encomiums for their good appearance. And for all this, Union District may well congratulate itself.

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# CONCLUDING REMARKS.

The foregoing Special Reports are intended to give, in brief, a fair and impartial account of our several schools. It has been the purpose to avoid favoritism, or doing any injustice to teacher, school or district. Only such criticisms and suggestions have been made as were considered expedient, and for the interest of the schools and those they must concern.

Those who are acquainted with the New Hampshire Common School of to-day may observe the educational progress which has taken place within the past few years, and is still going on. This, we should remember, is our Centennial year. We have passed the days of the birchen rod and master's ferule, as often described and poetically portrayed, a time when reason and moral suasion were of minor account, and physical strength was the power that both taught and ruled the school.

There was a time when the art of teaching was not so well understood, and teachers generally, considering the advantages they had for improvement, could not have been so well qualified. The average teacher of the district school was once thought to be sufficiently qualified in a literary sense, who had a mere rudimentary knowledge of a few of the common English branches. Arithmetic, reading and writing were to them, of the most practical importance. They should know something of the "Rule of Three," and some had a passable knowledge of Grammar; but after Murray's treatise on this neglected science came into use, a new interest was awakened in this study which has continued unabated to the present time.

There were but few professional teachers, or those who could afford to fit themselves for teaching for the small pay which they received, and the cost which *extra learning* in those days incurred. There were no Normal Schools, as we now have, that are established and provided for by the State, and intended for the special training of teachers.

All must acknowledge the superior advantages of the schools of the present day over those of the past; and the great improvement in our text-books has had much to do with this and the progress that has been made in scholarship.

The books used 75 or 50 years ago would hardly answer the purpose of the present time for anything more than specimens of curiosity, and we occasionally see them.

Much more is now done for the comfort of children attending school. We have much more suitable school-buildings, and the school-room has more attractions. Many in Swanzey can remember the old school-house in times referred to, with its weather-beaten clapboards and huge old fire-place that could devour at once a cord of wood, and "where on cold winter mornings the big logs used to crackle such a ruddy welcome to rosy cheeks and frosty fingers."

These times have passed, and a great reform has taken place during the brief period of our country's history.

The International Exhibition will soon place before the world what has been and is now being done for education; and our State, it is believed, will there appear pre-eminent among others. Our different states, as appears, are trying to rival each other in the advancement of popular education and the perfection of a school system. For this common purpose our National Government has established a Bureau of Education which is to assist in establishing and systematizing the public schools throughout our land; and "it seeks to be the great depository of all that has to do with the education of this great nation."

G. I. CUTLER,
*Superintending School Committee.*

# TABLE I.

## SUMMER & FALL SCHOOLS.

| DISTRICTS, | I. | II. | III. | IV. | V. | VI. | VII. | VIII. | IX. | X. | *XI. | †XI. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Length of School in weeks, | 7 | 9 | 8 | 5.8 | 8 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 8 |
| Whole number of pupils, | 19 | 46 | 13 | 10 | 19 | 20 | 36 | 11 | 28 | 20 | 40 | 47 |
| Males, | 9 | 23 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 20 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 18 | 24 |
| Females, | 10 | 23 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 9 | 16 | 5 | 19 | 10 | 22 | 23 |
| Average attendance, | 13.4 | 35.60 | 12.39 | 9.00 | 17.50 | 17.40 | 31.50 | 9.00 | 24.18 | 18.85 | 37.11 | 42.00 |
| Number of pupils over 15 years, | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 9 |
| Number of tardinesses, | 38 | 14 | 3 | 5 | 20 | 7 | 23 | 1 | 0 | 17 | 22 | 38 |
| Number not absent one-half day, | 10 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 11 | 9 | 14 | 13 |
| Number not tardy, | 6 | 39 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 14 | 20 | 10 | 28 | 14 | 25 | 27 |
| Number neither absent nor tardy, | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 11 | 7 | 9 | 12 |
| Number of visits of Supt. Committee, | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Number of visits by Prudential Committee, | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Number of visits by Citizens and others, | 37 | 15 | 17 | 3 | 16 | 11 | 17 | 22 | 23 | 37 | 31 | 30 |
| Wages of Teacher per mo., including board, | $24 | 40 00 | 26 00 | 30 00 | 24 00 | 20 00 | 28 00 | 22 00 | 27 00 | 28 00 | 30 00 | 30 00 |

*Miss Felt's School. †Miss Taylor's School.

## TABLE II.

# WINTER SCHOOLS.

| DISTRICTS, | I. | II. | III. | IV. | V. | VI. | VII. | VIII. | IX. | X. | XI.* | XI.† |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Length of School in weeks, | 8 | 15 2-5 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 10 3-5 | 11 | 12 | 12 |
| Whole number of pupils, | 16 | 49 | 12 | 16 | 23 | 18 | 35 | 15 | 28 | 22 | 46 | 64 |
| Males, | 8 | 26 | 8 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 19 | 8 | 17 | 11 | 19 | 41 |
| Females, | 8 | 23 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 7 | 16 | 7 | 11 | 11 | 27 | 23 |
| Average attendance, | 12.¾ | 42.30 | 10.86 | 14.50 | 20.50 | 17.49 | 24.00 | 14.50 | 24.70 | 21.00 | 42.62 | 55.90 |
| Number of pupils over 15 years, | 2 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 27 | 0 |
| Number of tardinesses, | 23 | 24 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 24 | 14 | 7 | 15 | 17 | 26 |
| Number not absent one-half day, | 2 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 12 | 0 | 23 | 18 |
| Number not tardy, | 7 | 37 | 8 | 12 | 22 | 18 | 15 | 11 | 24 | 1 | 37 | 49 |
| Number neither absent nor tardy, | 2 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 12 | 0 | 22 | 15 |
| Number of visits by Supt. Commmittee, | 3 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Number of visits by Prudential Committee, | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 7 |
| Number of visits by Citizens and others, | 22 | 50 | 16 | 33 | 16 | 18 | 33 | 23 | 20 | 36 | 73 | 78 |
| Wages of Teacher per mo. including board, | $26 | 40 00 | 26 00 | 28 00 | 28 00 | 30 00 | 30 00 | 24 00 | 28 00 | 30 00 | 42 00 | 28 00 |

* Grammar School. † Primary School.

# TABLE III.

| Dists. | Prudential Committees. | SUMMER AND FALL SCHOOLS. | | WINTER SCHOOLS. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Teachers. | Residences. | Teachers. | Residences. |
| No. 1. | Edward Avery, | Miss Ruth A. Smith, | Keene. | Miss Carrie L. Whitcomb, | Swanzey. |
| No. 2. | D. E. Woodward, | Miss Ellen Taft, | Marlborough. | Miss Ellen Taft, | Marlborough. |
| No. 3. | John H. Streeter, | Miss Emma M. Lovering, | Marlborough. | Miss Emma M. Lovering, | Marlborough. |
| No. 4. | Lyman N. Stone, | Miss Cora F. Lombard, | Swanzey. | Miss Jennie M. Holbrook, | Swanzey. |
| No. 5. | Chas. R. Worcester, | Miss Annie V. Richardson, | Keene. | Mrs. Clara Moore Robinson, | Swanzey. |
| No. 6. | Ansel B. Dickinson, | Miss Ada M. Reed, | Westport. | Miss M. Addie Morse, | Keene. |
| No. 7. | Geo. W Brooks, | Miss Jennie A. Faulkner, | Westport. | Mr. Frank S. Faulkner, | Westport. |
| No. 8. | Amos Cummings, | Miss Carrie L. Whitcomb, | Swanzey. | Miss Kate E. Lombard, | Swanzey. |
| No. 9. | Alonzo A. Stanley, | Miss Julia A. Blanding, | West Swanzey. | Miss Julia A. Blanding, | West Swanzey. |
| No. 10. | Levi Crouch, | Miss Emily R. Bailey, | Swanzey. | Miss Nellie L. Richardson, | Marlborough. |
| No. 11. | A. S. Kendall,<br>Geo. W. Alexander,<br>Geo. W. Capron, | Miss Ella A. Felt,<br>Miss Carrie S. Taylor, | Winchester.<br>Hinsdale. | Miss Abbie C. Gould,<br>Miss Julia A. Blanding, | West Swanzey.<br>West Swanzey. |

# TABLE IV.

| Districts. | Number of Scholars. | Av. Attend. for the year. | Amount to each District. | Am't to each Scholar. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. 1. | 21 | 13 10 | $ 106 98 | $5 09 |
| No. 2. | 61 | 38 95 | 259 73 | 4 26 |
| No. 3. | 14 | 11 63 | 98 12 | 7 01 |
| No. 4. | 18 | 11 75 | 96 90 | 5 39 |
| No. 5. | 25 | 19 00 | 134 73 | 5 39 |
| No. 6. | 22 | 17 45 | 98 87 | 4 49 |
| No. 7. | 43 | 27 75 | 154 44 | 3 59 |
| No. 8. | 16 | 12 20 | 113 09 | 7 07 |
| No. 9. | 29 | 24 44 | 118 80 | 4 10 |
| No. 10. | 23 | 19 92 | 153 63 | 6 68 |
| No. 11. | 123 | 88 82 | *416 94 | 3 39 |
| | 395 | 285 01 | $1752 28 | $4 44 |

*Including $35.50 apportioned to No. 12.